

Reducing Color and Texture Contrasts

Care should be taken to select plants with size, forms, colors, and textures that blend with existing vegetation.

In cases where it is necessary to utilize non-native species, selection would be based on visual compatibility with the existing plant material.

Vegetative Screening

Vegetation can also be used to screen areas of undesirable contrast that cannot be addressed by more direct means due to cost. For example, the last picture in Plate 7, illustrates screening a retaining wall with trees rather than stone material.

Reducing the Contrasts of Necessary Visible Structures

Structures proposed as part of the alternates range in scale from culverts and retaining walls to bridges. Alterations in color, material and texture will be incorporated into the final design where practical and feasible for each type of structure to blend it into its immediate surroundings, thereby reducing contrast.

Culverts

The materials and form given to culvert installations is key to blending them into the existing landscape. Construction materials could be modified to blend with adjacent rock and landforms. Plate 8 illustrates a typical culvert installation in which a large area of planting and grading is affected and little is done to mitigate the visual effects. As Plate 8 suggests, there is a high degree of contrast and alteration to the existing environment. The preferred treatments are shown in Plate 9. Native materials and plantings have been used to reduce the amount of contrast. The length of the culvert has been shortened to reduce the visual impact and return the stream alignment to its original path.



Plate 8: Typical Culvert Treatment



Plate 9: Preferred Treatments for Culverts

Retaining Walls

Depending on the type of material utilized, the form, color, line and texture can be modified slightly to lessen contrast. Plate 10 illustrates a typical concrete retaining wall. As Plate 10 suggests, there is a high degree of contrast produced by its texture and light color. Also, the height and scale of the wall is a source of contrast. Plate 11 shows the preferred treatment for large retaining walls to reduce contrast. Both the color and texture of the wall has been changed to better match the surrounding environment. Surface treatments such as concrete form liners and coloration will be incorporated where practical and feasible to reduce contrast. As shown also in Plate 11, the potential for curving the ends of retaining walls to blend with the existing landforms will also be considered where practical.

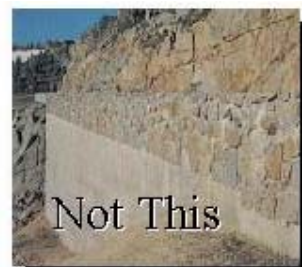


Plate 10: Typical Retaining Wall Treatment



Plate 11: Preferred Retaining Wall Treatment
(Textured Materials / Screening)

Bridges and Interchanges

Bridges and interchanges create the greatest contrast and would require mitigation and enhancement measures to reduce the extent of impacts in those areas of high visual resource classification and visibility. KOPs 2 and 4 are examples of the impact of large bridge structures with significant fill slopes and abutments or retaining walls. Impacts would be addressed by enhancing the appearance of the proposed structures or screening the structures by vegetative means. Plate 12 shows a typical bridge overpass arrangement in which large concrete abutment walls are flanked by steep 2:1 grass slopes. As Plates 11 and 12 suggest, a high degree of contrast is created by the light color and smooth texture of the slopes and concrete.

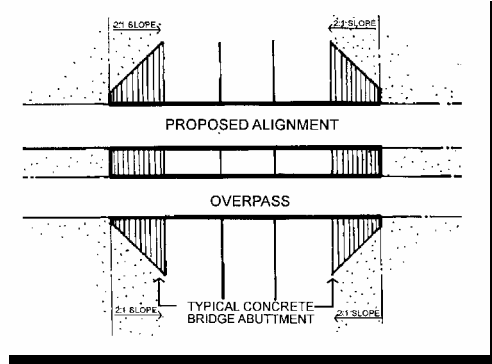


Plate 12: Typical Bridge Abutment